

# Theoretical Characterization of the Surface Composition of Ruthenium Nanoparticles in Equilibrium with Syngas

## Supplementary Informations

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### S1 Faceting of large RuNPs

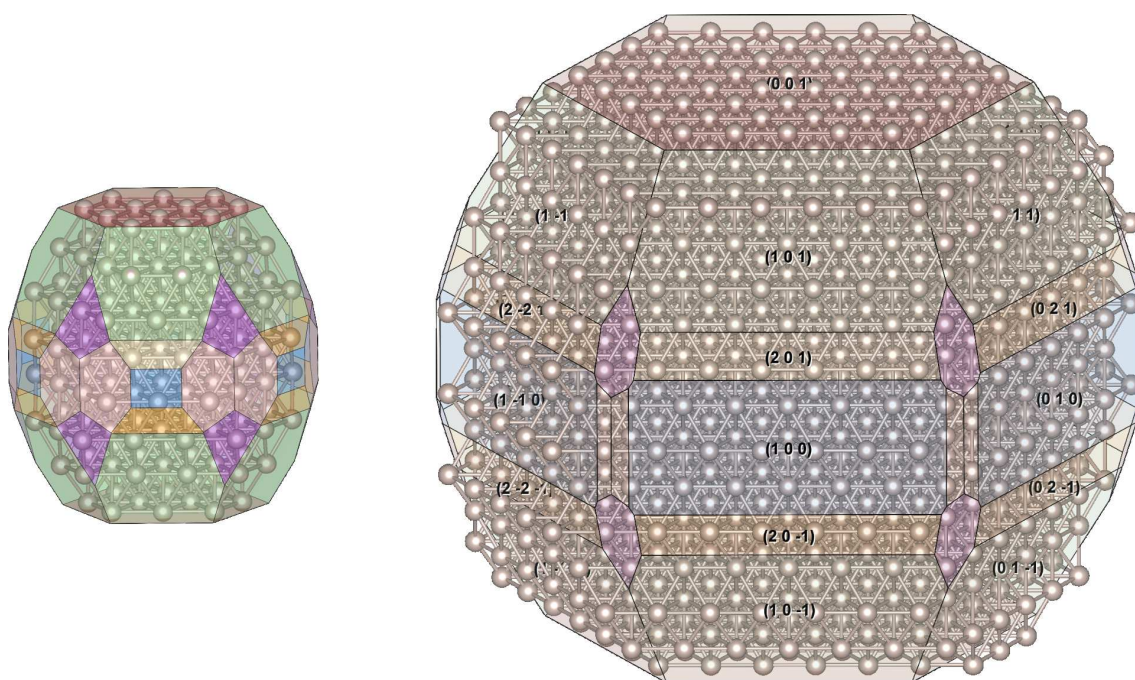


Figure S1: Left panel: Wulff construction of a bare 1.6 nm hcp RuNP. Right panel: Wulff construction of a bare 3 nm hcp RuNP, with B5 sites between the (001) and (101) crystallographic planes (adapted from Honkala *et al* (2005), *Science*, **307**, 555-558 ).

## S2 Single H and CO adsorption on a RuNP. Low coverage

### S2.1 Optimized geometries and adsorption energies

Table S1: Ruthenium-Hydrogen distances for the Ru<sub>55</sub> isomers

| Coordination type | Isomer          | $d_{H-Ru}$ (Å)     |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| $\eta$            | 5 <sup>H</sup>  | 1.66               |
| $\eta$            | 6 <sup>H</sup>  | 1.65               |
| $\eta$            | 8 <sup>H</sup>  | 1.65               |
| $\mu$             | 7 <sup>H</sup>  | 1.87 / 1.78        |
| $\mu$             | 4 <sup>H</sup>  | 1.83 / 1.81        |
| $\mu$             | 1 <sup>H</sup>  | 1.83 / 1.81        |
| $\mu$             | 11 <sup>H</sup> | 1.93 / 1.73        |
| $\mu_3$           | 2 <sup>H</sup>  | 1.97 / 1.92 / 1.90 |
| $\mu_3$           | 10 <sup>H</sup> | 1.95 / 1.93 / 1.91 |
| $\mu_3$           | 3 <sup>H</sup>  | 1.98 / 1.95 / 1.81 |
| $\mu_3$           | 9 <sup>H</sup>  | 2.01 / 1.92 / 1.92 |

Table S2: H<sub>2</sub> dissociative adsorption energies (kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>) at several surface sites of Ru<sub>55</sub>.

| Coordination type | Isomer          | $E_{ads}$ on Ru <sub>55</sub> |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| $\eta$            | 5 <sup>H</sup>  | -9.8                          |
| $\eta$            | 6 <sup>H</sup>  | -6.5                          |
| $\eta$            | 8 <sup>H</sup>  | -5.8                          |
| $\mu$             | 7 <sup>H</sup>  | -14.9                         |
| $\mu$             | 4 <sup>H</sup>  | -13.8                         |
| $\mu$             | 1 <sup>H</sup>  | -12.8                         |
| $\mu$             | 11 <sup>H</sup> | -5.6                          |
| $\mu_3$           | 2 <sup>H</sup>  | -13.8                         |
| $\mu_3$           | 10 <sup>H</sup> | -13.5                         |
| $\mu_3$           | 3 <sup>H</sup>  | -11.5                         |
| $\mu_3$           | 9 <sup>H</sup>  | -11.6                         |

Table S3: CO molecular adsorption energies (kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>) at several surface sites of Ru<sub>55</sub>.

| Coordination type     | Isomer           | $E_{ads}$ on Ru <sub>55</sub> |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| $\eta$                | 2 <sup>CO</sup>  | -49.8                         |
| $\eta$                | 11 <sup>CO</sup> | -49.4                         |
| $\eta$                | 1 <sup>CO</sup>  | -46.5                         |
| $\eta$                | 7 <sup>CO</sup>  | -45.4                         |
| $\eta$                | 5 <sup>CO</sup>  | -42.6                         |
| $\eta$                | 9 <sup>CO</sup>  | -46.6                         |
| $\eta$                | 2 <sup>OC</sup>  | -3.9                          |
| $\mu$                 | 10 <sup>CO</sup> | -52.7                         |
| $\mu$                 | 8 <sup>CO</sup>  | -45.4                         |
| $\mu_4$               | 6 <sup>CO</sup>  | -43.9                         |
| ( $\eta$ , $\eta^2$ ) | 3 <sup>CO</sup>  | -46.9                         |
| ( $\eta$ , $\eta^2$ ) | 4 <sup>CO</sup>  | -40.3                         |

Table S4: Ruthenium-Carbon distances for the Ru<sub>55</sub> isomers. Values with \* correspond to Ruthenium-Oxygen distances.

| Coordination type | Isomer    | $d_{CO-Ru}$ (Å)                   |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| $\eta$            | $2^{CO}$  | 1.87                              |
| $\eta$            | $11^{CO}$ | 1.87                              |
| $\eta$            | $1^{CO}$  | 1.86                              |
| $\eta$            | $7^{CO}$  | 1.89                              |
| $\eta$            | $5^{CO}$  | 1.89                              |
| $\eta$            | $9^{CO}$  | 1.86                              |
| $\eta$            | $2^{OC}$  | 2.19*                             |
| $\mu$             | $10^{CO}$ | 2.05 / 2.04                       |
| $\mu$             | $8^{CO}$  | 2.07 / 2.04                       |
| $\mu_4$           | $6^{CO}$  | 2.33 / 2.33 / 2.20 / 2.11         |
| $(\eta, \eta^2)$  | $3^{CO}$  | 2.38 / 2.09 / 1.98 / 2.26*        |
| $(\eta, \eta^2)$  | $4^{CO}$  | 2.49 / 2.31 / 2.05 / 1.97 / 2.20* |

## S2.2 Multicarbonyl sites at apex location

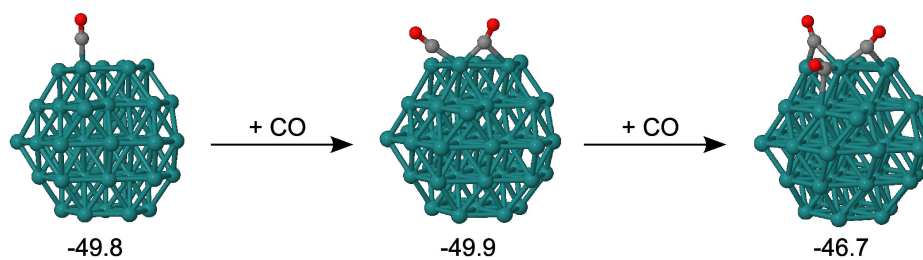


Figure S2: Geometries and adsorption energies per CO in kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup> for  $2^{CO}$ ,  $2^{2CO}$  and  $2^{3CO}$ .

### S2.3 DOS and COHP profiles for CO\*<sub>Ru55</sub>

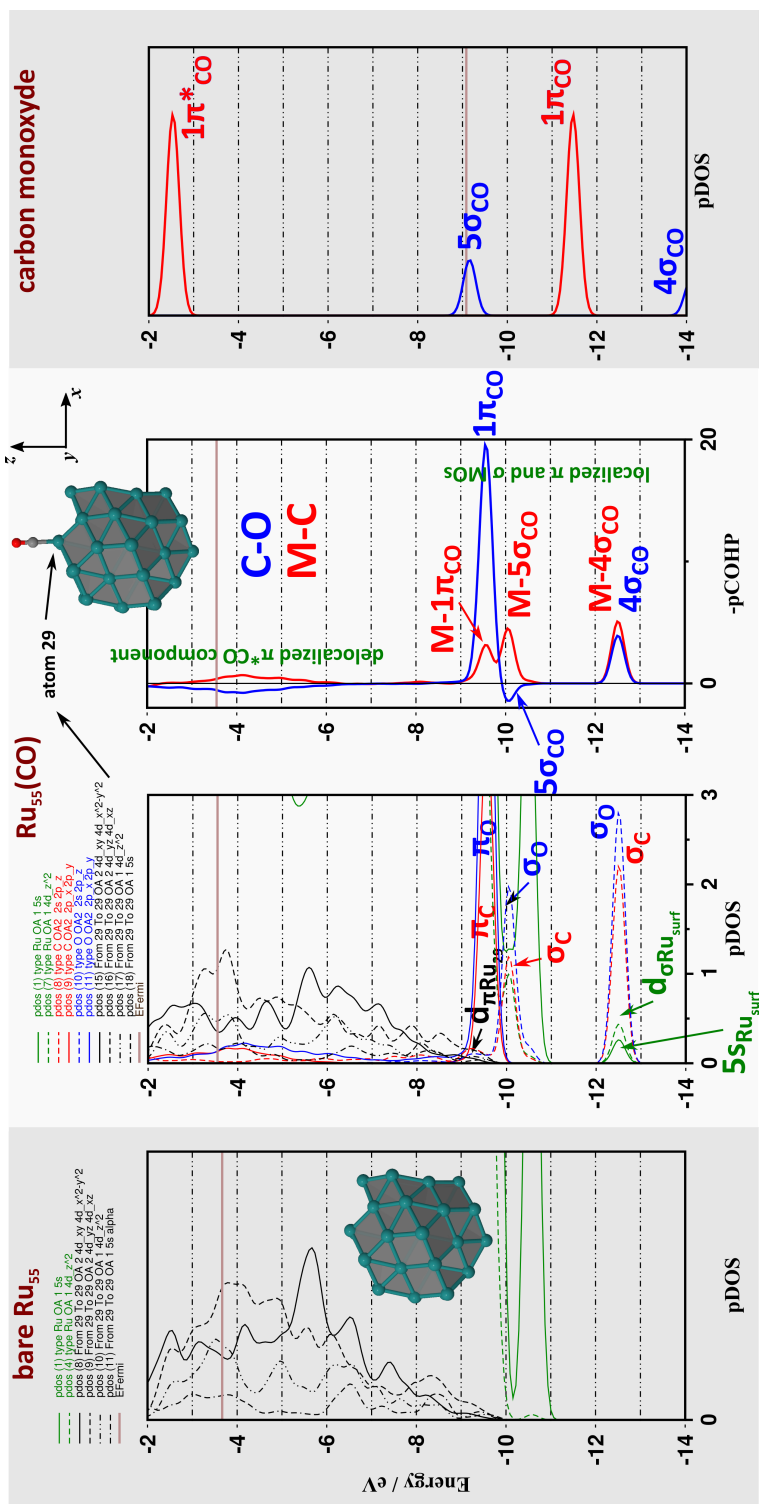


Figure S3: pCOHP and pDOS for  $2_{\text{Ru}}^{\text{CO}}$ , compared to the pDOS of CO and of the  $\text{Ru}_{55}$  moiety, frozen in the geometry of  $2_{\text{Ru}}^{\text{CO}}$ .



## S3 Single H and CO adsorption on a RuNP. High coverages

### S3.1 Optimized geometries

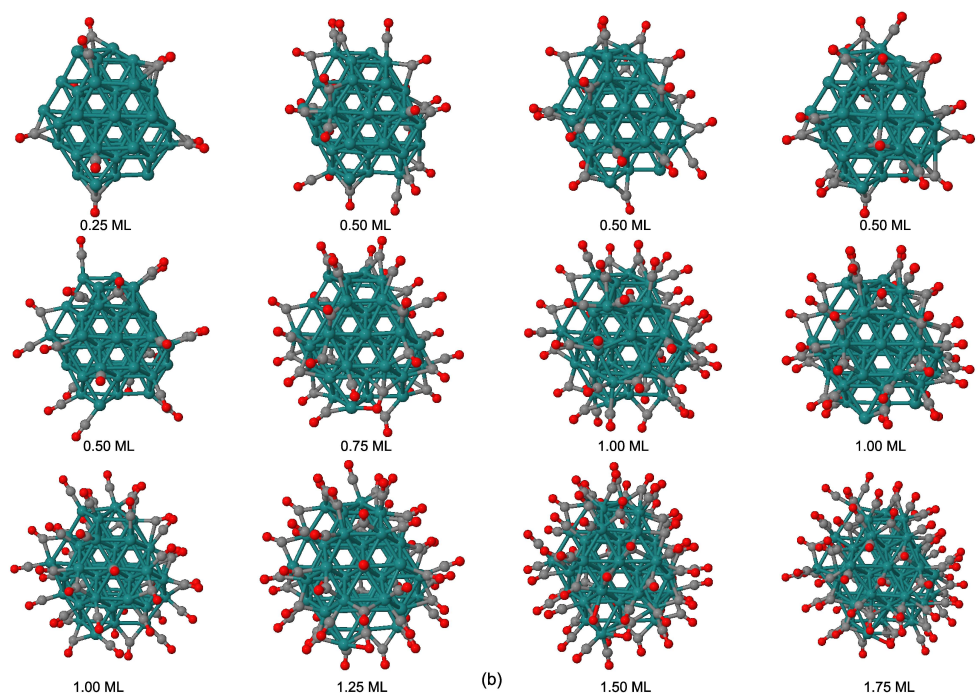
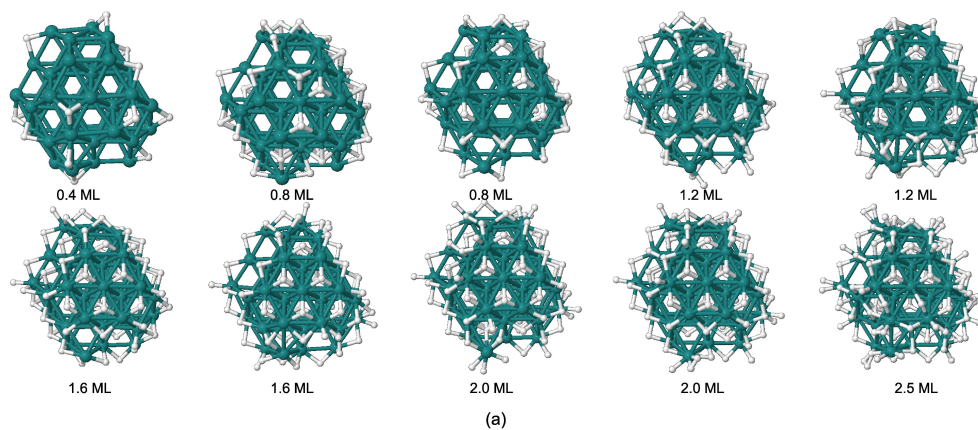


Figure S4: DFT-optimized high coverages RuNP H (a) CO (b). Owing to the reduced scale, hydrogenated RuNPs with subsurface H are not shown here, since they are much alike the RuNPs plotted here.

## S3.2 Energies and coordination modes

| coverage                         | H coord.  | $E_{\text{DFT}}$ | $E_{\text{ads}}$ |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| 0.4 ML                           | 11 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$                                   | -492.69          | -14.83           |
| 0.4 ML + subsurface              | 16 $\mu$<br>7 $\mu_3$<br>3 Oh                           | -525.13          | -11.31           |
| 0.8 ML <sub>1</sub>              | 22 $\mu$<br>13 $\mu_3$                                  | -564.40          | -14.41           |
| 0.8 ML <sub>1</sub> + subsurface | 19 $\mu$<br>18 $\mu_3$<br>7 Oh                          | -591.93          | -9.76            |
| 0.8 ML <sub>2</sub>              | 24 $\mu$<br>12 $\mu_3$                                  | -567.59          | -13.89           |
| 0.8 ML <sub>2</sub> + subsurface | 22 $\mu$<br>16 $\mu_3$<br>7 Oh                          | -595.17          | -9.46            |
| 1.2 ML <sub>1</sub>              | 2 $\eta$<br>34 $\mu$<br>17 $\mu_3$                      | -634.13          | -13.42           |
| 1.2 ML <sub>1</sub> + subsurface | 2 $\eta$<br>30 $\mu$<br>21 $\mu_3$<br>9 Oh              | -659.14          | -9.26            |
| 1.2 ML <sub>2</sub>              | 2 $\eta$<br>37 $\mu$<br>14 $\mu_3$                      | -634.19          | -13.44           |
| 1.2 ML <sub>2</sub> + subsurface | 2 $\eta$<br>32 $\mu$<br>18 $\mu_3$<br>1 $\mu_4$<br>9 Oh | -659.40          | -9.35            |
| 1.6 ML <sub>1</sub>              | 6 $\eta$<br>43 $\mu$<br>21 $\mu_3$                      | -696.53          | -11.80           |
| 1.6 ML <sub>1</sub> + subsurface | 5 $\eta$<br>44 $\mu$<br>21 $\mu_3$<br>9 Oh              | -722.91          | -9.08            |
| 1.6 ML <sub>2</sub>              | 8 $\eta$<br>45 $\mu$<br>17 $\mu_3$                      | -697.69          | -12.19           |
| 1.6 ML <sub>2</sub> + subsurface | 8 $\eta$<br>42 $\mu$<br>20 $\mu_3$<br>9 Oh              | -723.81          | -9.35            |

| coverage                         | H coord.   | $E_{\text{DFT}}$ | $E_{\text{ads}}$ |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| 2.0 ML <sub>1</sub>              | 16 $\eta$<br>57 $\mu$<br>14 $\mu_3$<br>1 $\mu_4$ | -760.59          | -10.26           |
| 2.0 ML <sub>1</sub> + subsurface | 17 $\eta$<br>53 $\mu$<br>17 $\mu_3$<br>9 Oh      | -784.30          | -8.40            |
| 2.0 ML <sub>2</sub>              | 16 $\eta$<br>52 $\mu$<br>20 $\mu_3$              | -761.26          | -10.43           |
| 2.0 ML <sub>2</sub> + subsurface | 17 $\eta$<br>52 $\mu$<br>19 $\mu_3$<br>9 Oh      | -788.69          | -8.55            |
| 2.5 ML                           | 22 $\eta$<br>49 $\mu$<br>15 $\mu_3$<br>12 $H_2$  | -839.13          | -9.10            |

Table S5: **H** coordination modes for each considered coverage.  $E_{\text{DFT}}$  is given in eV and  $E_{\text{ads}}$  in kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>.

| coverage             | CO coord.            | $E_{\text{DFT}}$ | $E_{\text{ads}}$ |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 0.25 ML              | 1 $\eta$             | -610.75          | -49.99           |
|                      | 6 $\mu$              |                  |                  |
|                      | 4 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
| 0.50 ML <sub>1</sub> | 5 $\eta$             | -795.40          | -48.18           |
|                      | 15 $\mu$             |                  |                  |
|                      | 2 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
| 0.50 ML <sub>2</sub> | 9 $\eta$             | -794.98          | -47.74           |
|                      | 10 $\mu$             |                  |                  |
|                      | 3 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
| 0.50 ML <sub>3</sub> | 1 $\eta$             | -796.15          | -48.97           |
|                      | 14 $\mu$             |                  |                  |
|                      | 7 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
| 0.50 ML <sub>4</sub> | 18 $\eta$            | -794.70          | -47.44           |
|                      | 4 $\mu$              |                  |                  |
|                      | 7 $\eta$             |                  |                  |
| 0.75 ML              | 18 $\mu$             | -979.52          | -47.21           |
|                      | 7 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
|                      | 1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ ) |                  |                  |
|                      | 9 $\eta$             |                  |                  |
| 1.00 ML <sub>1</sub> | 30 $\mu$             | -1144.42         | -45.42           |
|                      | 4 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ ) |                  |                  |
|                      | 18 $\eta$            |                  |                  |
| 1.00 ML <sub>2</sub> | 21 $\mu$             | -1143.74         | -45.06           |
|                      | 4 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
|                      | 26 $\eta$            |                  |                  |
| 1.00 ML <sub>3</sub> | 15 $\mu$             | -1143.14         | -44.74           |
|                      | 2 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
|                      | 17 $\eta$            |                  |                  |
| 1.25 ML              | 32 $\mu$             | -1339.14         | -42.81           |
|                      | 5 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
|                      | 1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ ) |                  |                  |
|                      | 25 $\eta$            |                  |                  |
| 1.50 ML              | 34 $\mu$             | -1514.09         | -40.02           |
|                      | 5 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
|                      | 1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ ) |                  |                  |
|                      | 35 $\eta$            |                  |                  |
| 1.75 ML              | 33 $\mu$             | -1651.27         | -36.51           |
|                      | 5 $\mu_3$            |                  |                  |
|                      | 2 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ ) |                  |                  |
|                      | 35 $\eta$            |                  |                  |

Table S6: CO coordination modes for each considered coverage.  $E_{\text{DFT}}$  is given in eV and  $E_{\text{ads}}$  in kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>.

## S4 Phase diagrams without ZPE corrections

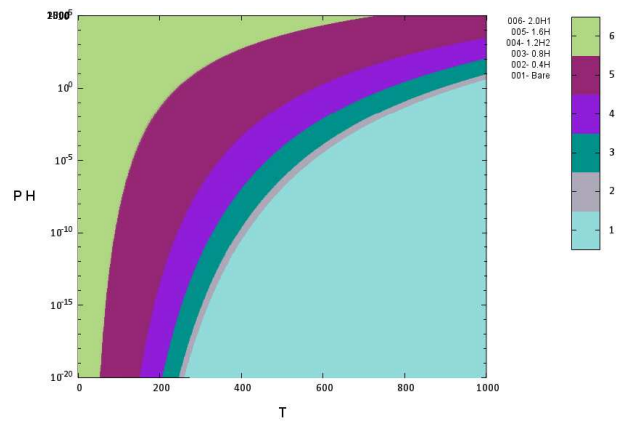


Figure S5:  $(T, p_{H_2})$  phase diagram for  $H_2$  adsorption on the 55-atoms RuNP without ZPE corrections

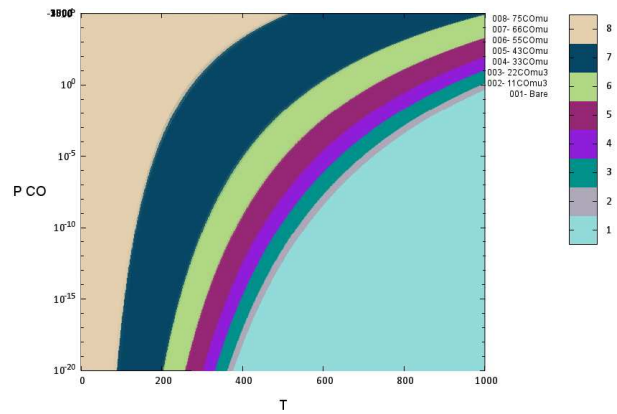


Figure S6:  $(T, p_{CO})$  phase diagram for  $CO$  adsorption on the 55-atoms RuNP without ZPE corrections.

## S5 H and CO co-adsorption on a RuNP

### S5.1 Optimized geometries

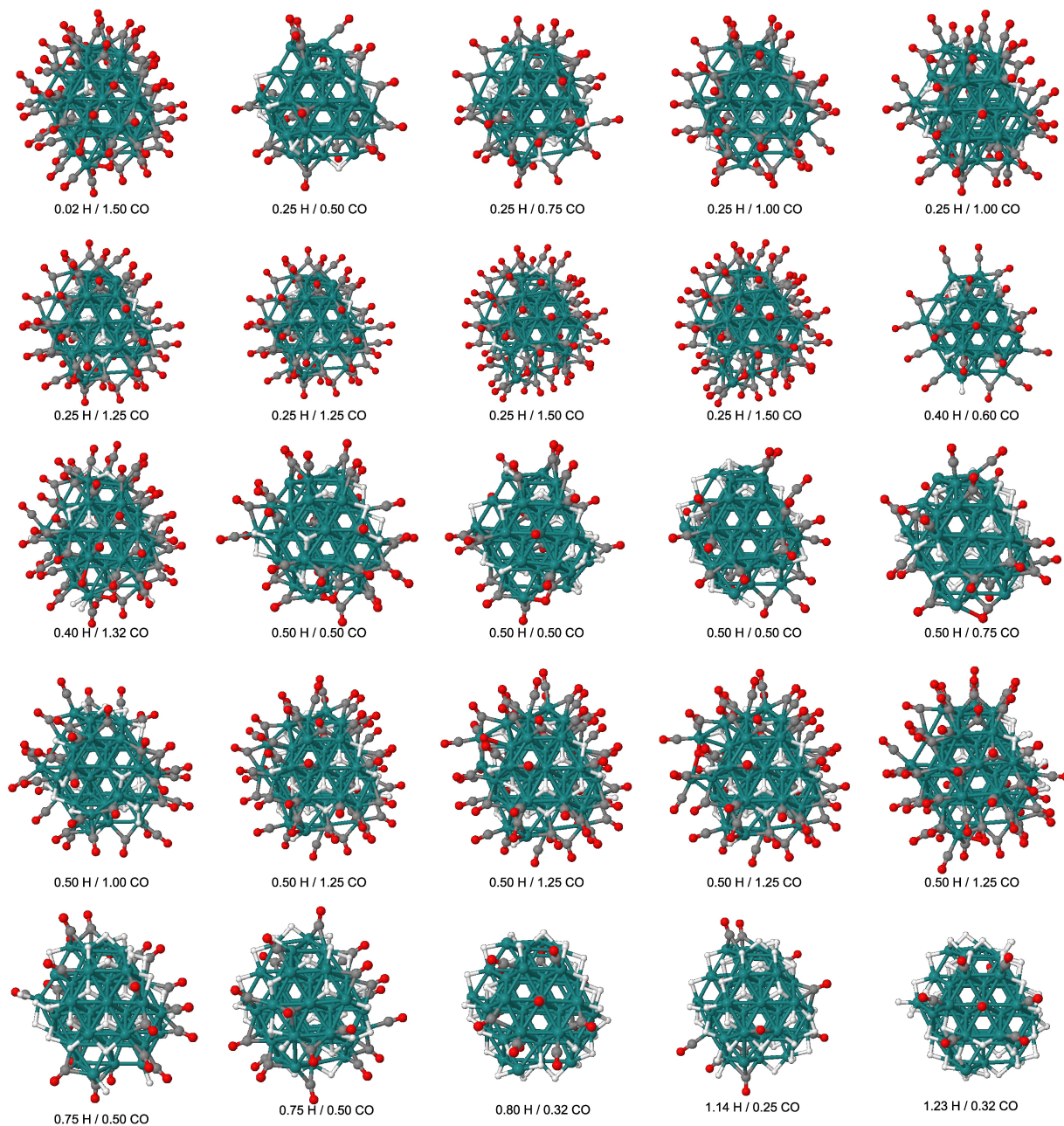


Figure S7: DFT-optimized high coverages RuNP H and CO.

## S5.2 Adsorption energies and coordination modes

Table S7: H/CO coordination modes for each considered coverage.  $E_{\text{DFT}}$  is given in eV and  $E_{\text{ads}}$  in kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>.

| coverage                  | H coord.                                       | CO coord.   | $E_{\text{DFT}}$ | $E_{\text{ads}}$ |
|---------------------------|--|---|------------------|------------------|
| 0.02/1.50 ML              | 1 $\mu_3$                                      | 25 $\eta$<br>34 $\eta$<br>6 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ ) | -1517.55         | -39.4            |
| 0.25/0.50 ML              | 7 $\mu$<br>4 $\mu_3$                           | 1 $\eta$<br>16 $\mu$<br>5 $\mu_3$                           | -839.64          | -37.09           |
| 0.25/0.75 ML <sub>1</sub> | 4 $\mu$<br>7 $\mu_3$                           | 6 $\eta$<br>19 $\mu$<br>7 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ )   | -1021.63         | -38.02           |
| 0.25/0.75 ML <sub>2</sub> | 5 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$                           | 29 $\eta$<br>4 $\mu$  | -1018.90         | -36.58           |
| 0.25/1.00 ML <sub>1</sub> | 5 $\mu$<br>5 $\mu_3$<br>1 $\mu^4$              | 22 $\eta$<br>18 $\mu$<br>3 $\mu_3$                          | -1185.21         | -37.73           |
| 0.25/1.00 ML <sub>2</sub> | 1 $\eta$<br>7 $\mu$<br>3 $\mu_3$               | 14 $\eta$<br>28 $\mu$<br>1 $\mu_3$                          | -1185.42         | -37.82           |
| 0.25/1.25 ML              | 1 $\eta$<br>4 $\mu$<br>5 $\mu_3$<br>1 $\mu^4$  | 13 $\eta$<br>35 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ )  | -1378.06         | -36.30           |
| 0.25/1.50 ML <sub>1</sub> | 1 $\eta$<br>7 $\mu$<br>3 $\mu_3$               | 27 $\eta$<br>34 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ )  | -1550.22         | -33.99           |
| 0.25/1.50 ML <sub>2</sub> | 1 $\eta$<br>3 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$<br>1 Oh       | 28 $\eta$<br>33 $\mu$<br>4 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ )  | -1550.06         | -33.93           |
| 0.40/0.60 ML              | 1 $\eta$<br>14 $\mu$<br>2 $\mu_3$<br>1 $\mu^4$ | 20 $\eta$<br>4 $\mu$<br>1 $\mu_3$                           | -914.48          | -32.15           |
| 0.40/1.30 ML              | 1 $\eta$<br>1 $\mu$<br>8 $H_2$                 | 18 $\eta$<br>32 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$<br>2 $\mu^4$             | -1447.99         | -31.91           |

| coverage                  | H coord.  | CO coord.  | $E_{\text{DFT}}$ | $E_{\text{ads}}$ |
|---------------------------|---|--|------------------|------------------|
| 0.50/0.50 ML <sub>1</sub> | 12 $\mu$<br>10 $\mu_3$                          | 5 $\eta$<br>11 $\mu$<br>5 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ )              | -880.82          | -29.93           |
| 0.50/0.50 ML <sub>2</sub> | 16 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$                           | 3 $\eta$<br>10 $\mu$<br>7 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ )<br>1 $\mu^4$ | -881.16          | -30.11           |
| 0.50/0.50 ML <sub>3</sub> | 8 $\mu$<br>14 $\mu_3$                           | 20 $\eta$<br>2 $\mu$   | -879.11          | -29.03           |
| 0.50/0.50 ML <sub>4</sub> | 1 $\eta$<br>12 $\mu$<br>9 $\mu_3$               | 8 $\eta$<br>11 $\mu$<br>3 $\mu_3$                                      | -880.33          | -29.68           |
| 0.50/0.75 ML              | 13 $\mu$<br>9 $\mu_3$                           | 16 $\eta$<br>14 $\mu$<br>2 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ )             | -1062.19         | -31.85           |
| 0.50/1.00 ML              | 2 $\eta$<br>9 $\mu$<br>9 $\mu_3$<br>2 $\mu^4$   | 26 $\eta$<br>11 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$                                     | -1223.69         | -31.82           |
| 0.50/1.25 ML <sub>1</sub> | 1 $\eta$<br>6 $\mu$<br>13 $\mu_3$<br>2 $\mu^4$  | 22 $\eta$<br>29 $\mu$<br>3 $\mu_3$<br>1 ( $\eta, \eta^2$ )             | -1415.94         | -31.33           |
| 0.50/1.25 ML <sub>2</sub> | 5 $\eta$<br>6 $\mu$<br>11 $\mu_3$               | 20 $\eta$<br>31 $\mu$<br>4 $\mu_3$                                     | -1415.84         | -31.31           |
| 0.75/0.50 ML <sub>1</sub> | 4 $\eta$<br>17 $\mu$<br>12 $\mu_3$              | 4 $\eta$<br>14 $\mu$<br>4 $\mu_3$                                      | -921.99          | -25.64           |
| 0.75/0.50 ML <sub>2</sub> | 1 $\eta$<br>22 $\mu$<br>9 $\mu_3$<br>1 $\mu^4$  | 4 $\eta$<br>12 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$                                      | -922.91          | -26.03           |
| 0.82/0.32 ML              | 20 $\mu$<br>16 $\mu_3$                          | 10 $\eta$<br>4 $\mu$   | -801.33          | -22.40           |
| 1.14/0.25 ML              | 2 $\eta$<br>31 $\mu$<br>17 $\mu_3$              | 1 $\eta$<br>4 $\mu$<br>6 $\mu_3$                                       | -804.73          | -18.54           |
| 1.23/0.32 ML              | 1 $\eta$<br>31 $\mu$<br>18 $\mu_3$<br>2 $\mu^4$ | 14 $\eta$  | -868.21          | -18.54           |

### S5.3 Surface-subsurface H diffusion

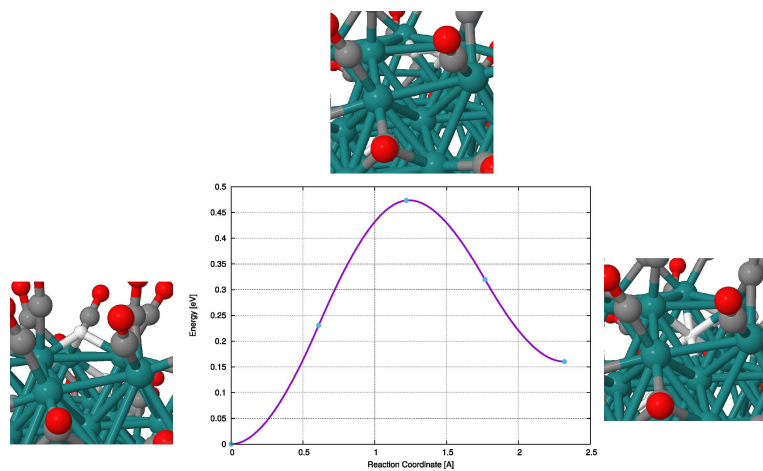


Figure S8: Fcc site - octahedral site diffusion in  $\text{Ru}_{55}\text{H}_{11}(\text{CO})_{66}$ .



## S6 Phase diagrams: empirical variation of the adsorption energies

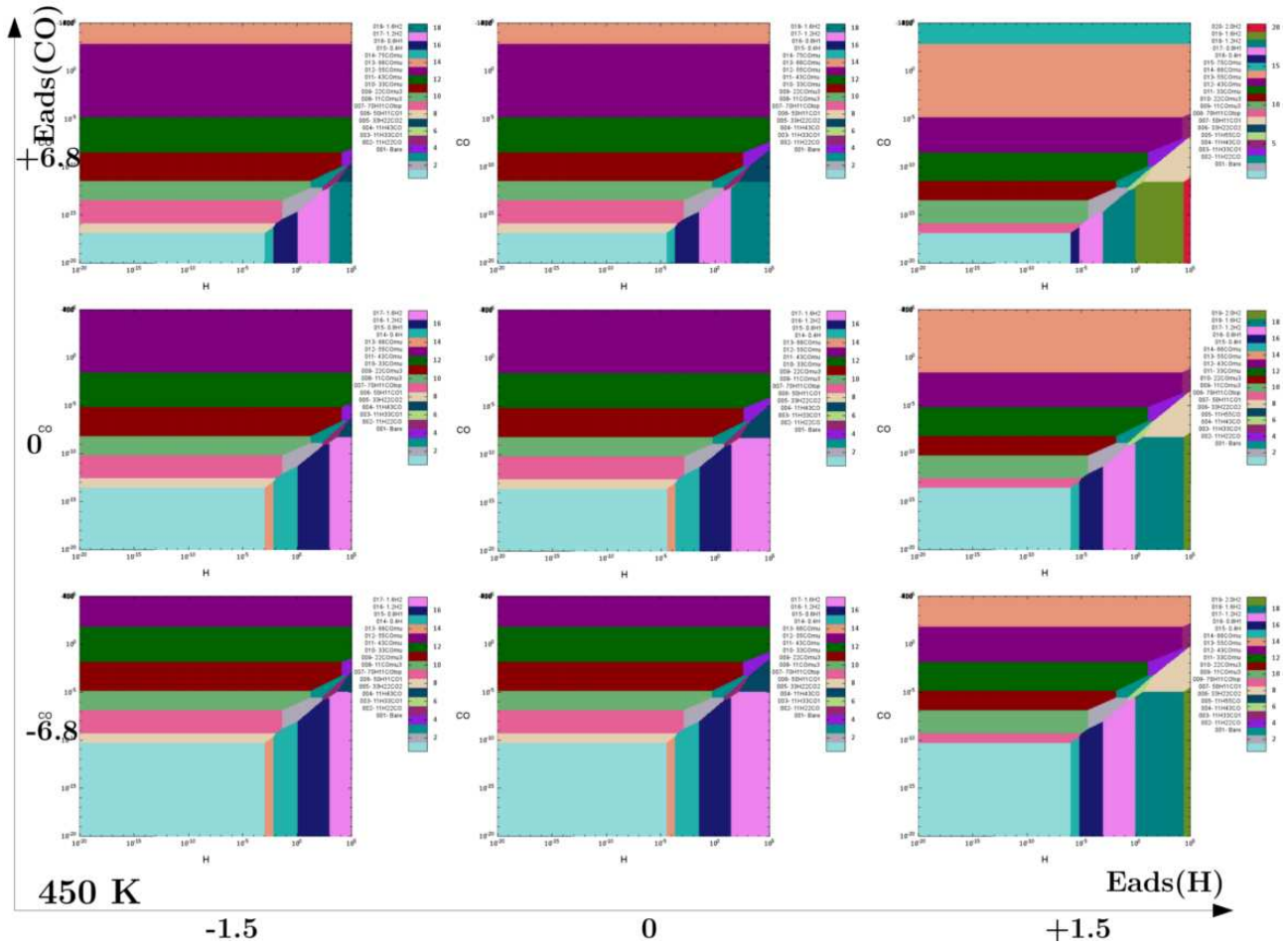


Figure S9: Phase diagram for  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$  adsorption on RuNP at 450 K with variation of adsorption energies :  $E_{\text{ads}}(\text{H}_2) \pm 1.5 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  and  $E_{\text{ads}}(\text{CO}) \pm 6.8 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

## S7 Discussion

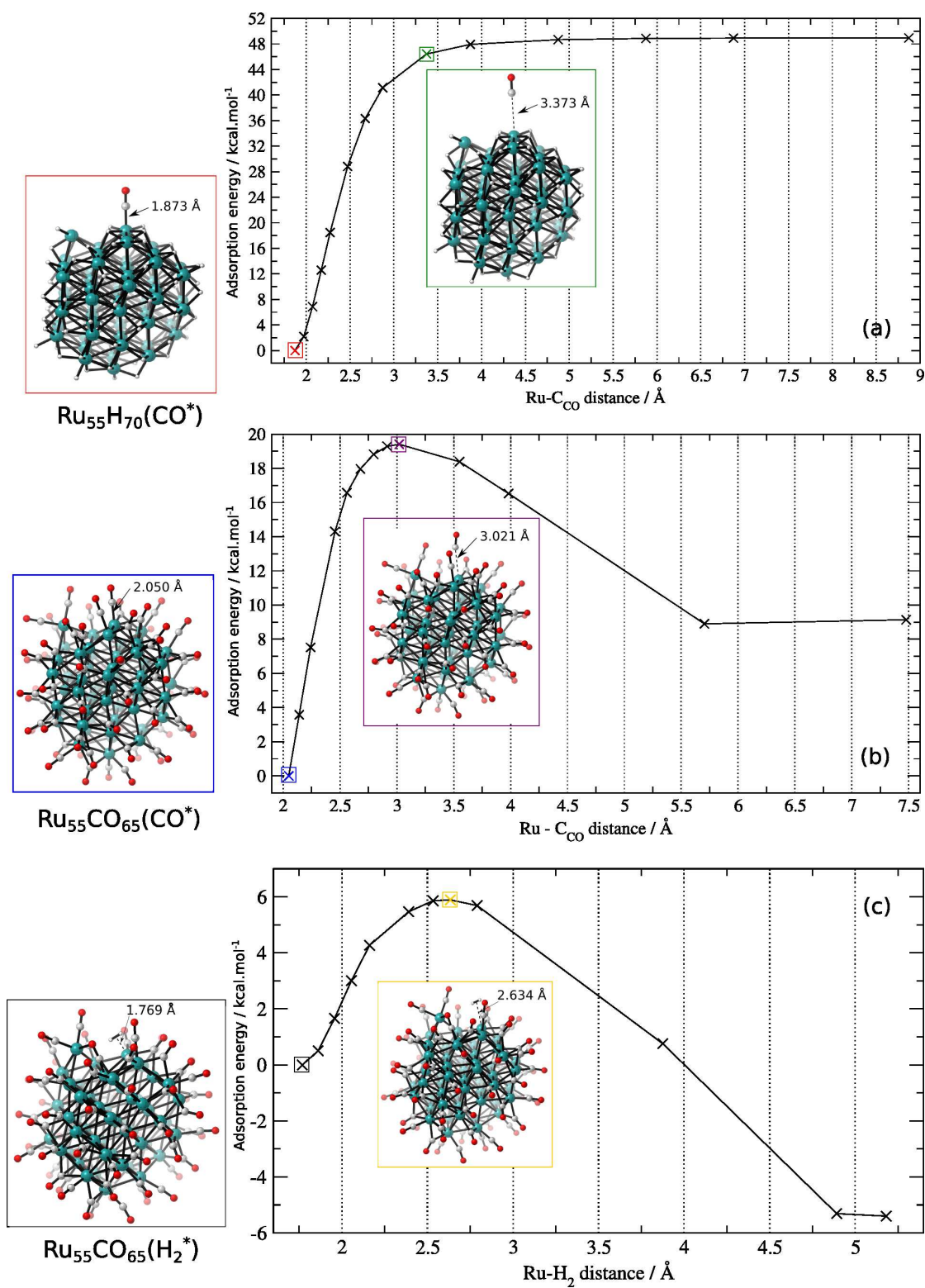


Figure S10: Surface energy scans. (a) adsorption of CO on Ru<sub>55</sub>(H)<sub>70</sub>; (b) adsorption of CO on Ru<sub>55</sub>(CO)<sub>65</sub>; (c) adsorption of H<sub>2</sub> on Ru<sub>55</sub>(CO)<sub>65</sub> (the Ru<sub>55</sub> core was kept frozen).

**Quantification of hydrides adsorbed on RuNPs@PVP pressurized with 3 bar of syngas (1:1 molar mixture of  $H_2$  and CO) and heated at 80 and 150 °C**

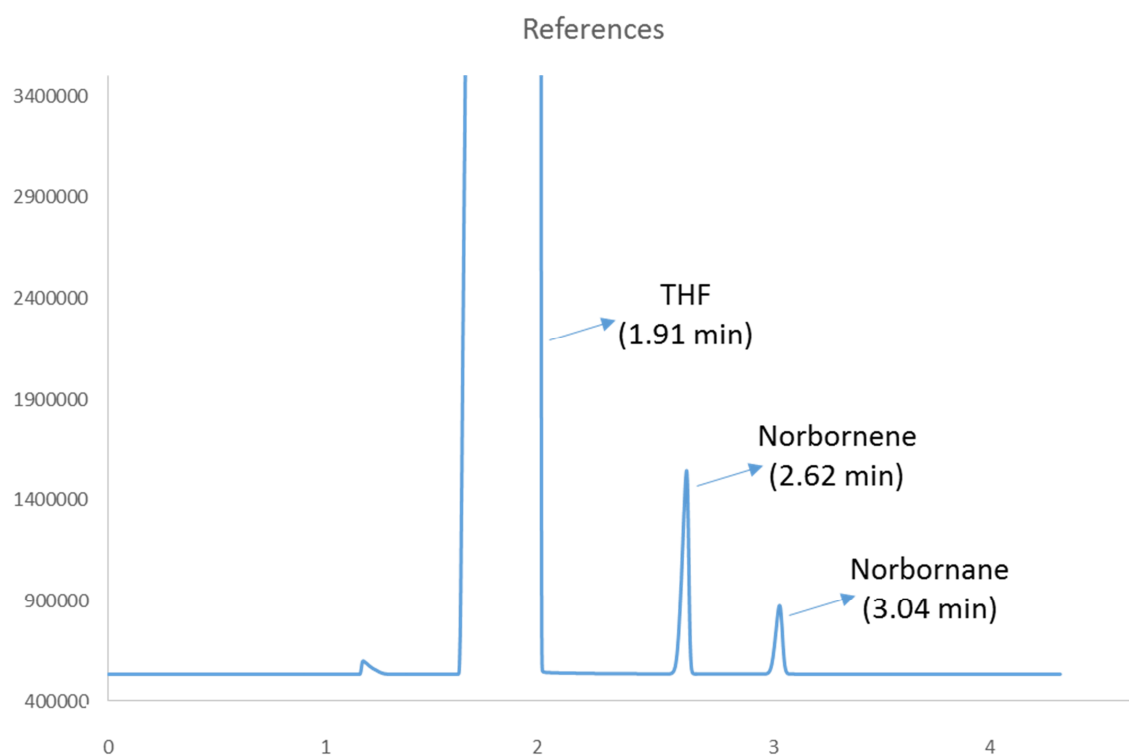


Figure S8: Gas chromatography spectrum of a reference mixture solution (THF, 2-norbornene and norbornane).

### **LMP57 (150 °C)**

Following the experimental procedure published in *ACS Catalysis* **2014**, 4, 3016, a 2 mL quick pressure valve NMR tubes was filled with 20 mg of RuNPs@PVP (~ 8% Ru), pressurized with 3 bar of syngas (1:1 molar mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO) and heated at 150 °C for 24 h.

After this, we quantified the hydrides adsorbed following a previously reported procedure (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 2074-2078). The NMR tube was depressurized at 150 °C. The Ru/PVP (20 mg) were re-dispersed in 2 mL of THF and reacted with 2-norbornene (7.5 mg, 0.08 mmol, 5 equiv.). The amount of norbornane formed was measured by G.C. analysis.

After 24h of vigorous stirring in a 10 ml flask, only traces of norbornane was observed by G.C, confirming that there are not hydrides adsorbed at ruthenium surface after these conditions.

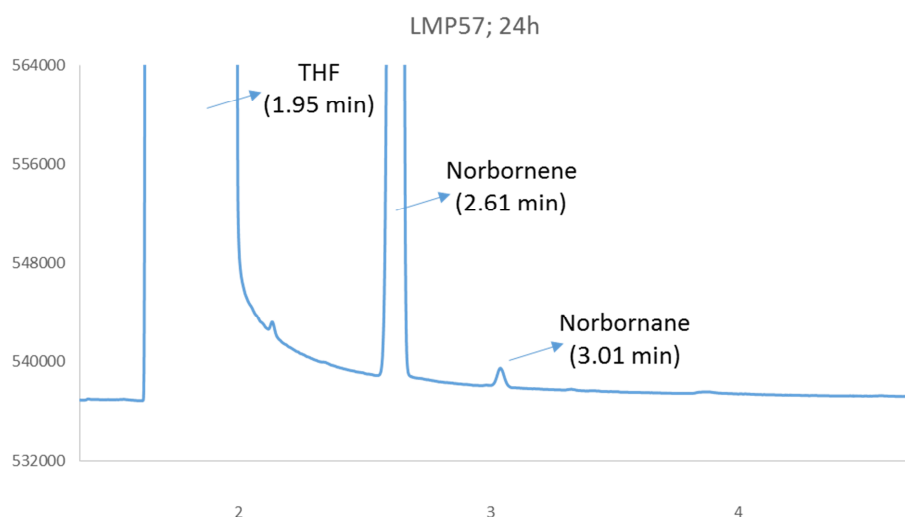


Figure S9: Gas chromatography spectrum recorded after reaction of 7.5 mg of 2-norbornene with 20 mg of RuNPs@PVP in a 2 mL quick pressure valve NMR tube obtained after 3 bar of syngas at 150 °C (1:1 molar mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO).

| Compound     | r.t. | area    | %     |
|--------------|------|---------|-------|
| THF          | 1.95 | 3295536 | -     |
| 2-norbornene | 2.61 | 18111   | 99.86 |
| norbornane   | 3.01 | 25      | 0.14  |

### **Calculation of hydrides adsorbed on RuNPs@PVP:**

RuNPs@PVP (~8 % Ru):  
Size = 1.3 (0.2) nm  
Total Atoms = 114  
Core atoms = 36  
Surface atoms = 78  
% Surface atoms = 68 %

1) 20 mg de RuNPs@PVP → 0.016 mmol Ru → 0.011 mmol Ru<sub>s</sub>

- 2) Norbornane consumed = 0.08 mmol (initial norbornene) \* 0.14 (% norbornane formed)\*0.01 = 0.00011 mmol  
 3) Hydrides/surface atom = 0.00011/0.011 = 0.01

### **LMP58 (80 °C)**

Following the experimental procedure published in *ACS Catalysis* **2014**, 4, 3016, a 2 mL quick pressure valve NMR tubes was filled with 20 mg of RuNPs@PVP (~ 8% Ru), pressurized with 3 bar of syngas (1:1 molar mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO) and heated at 80 °C for 24 h.

After this, we quantified the hydrides adsorbed following a previously reported procedure (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 2074-2078). The NMR tube was depressurized at 80 °C. The Ru/PVP (20 mg) were re-dispersed in 2 mL of THF and reacted with 2-norbornene (7.5 mg, 0.08 mmol, 5 equiv.). The amount of norbornane formed was measured by G.C. analysis.

After 24h of vigorous stirring in a 10 ml flask, only traces of norbornane was observed by G.C, confirming that there are not hydrides adsorbed at ruthenium surface after these conditions.

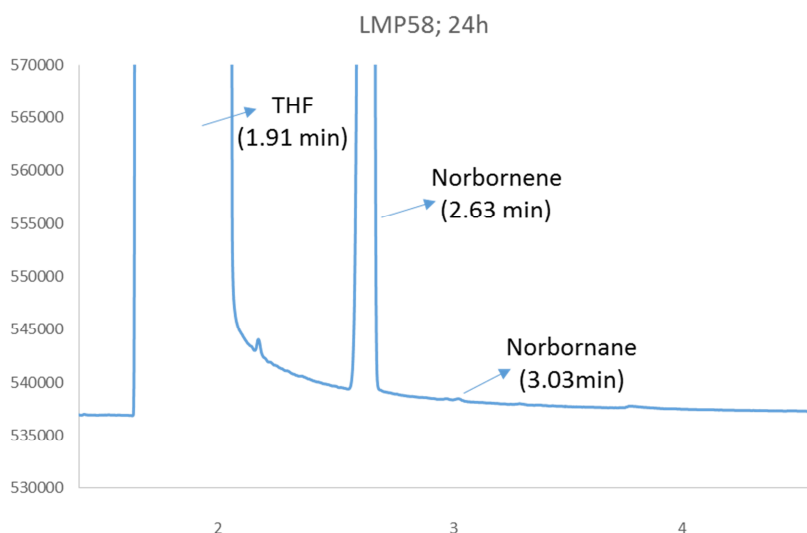


Figure S10: Gas chromatography spectrum recorded after reaction of 7.5 mg of 2-norbornene with 20 mg of RuNPs@PVP in a 2 mL quick pressure valve NMR tube obtained after 3 bar of syngas at 80 °C (1:1 molar mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO).

| Compound     | r.t. | area    | %     |
|--------------|------|---------|-------|
| THF          | 1.91 | 4522913 | -     |
| 2-norbornene | 2.63 | 29040   | 99.99 |
| norbornane   | 3.03 | 2.7     | 0.01  |

### **Calculation of hydrides adsorbed on RuNPs@PVP:**

RuNPs@PVP (~8 % Ru):

Size = 1.3 (0.2) nm

Total Atoms = 114

Core atoms = 36

Surface atoms = 78

% Surface atoms = 68 %

- 1) 20 mg de RuNPs@PVP  $\rightarrow$  0.016 mmol Ru  $\rightarrow$  0.011 mmol Ru<sub>s</sub>
- 2) Norbornane consumed = 0.08 mmol (initial norbornene) \* 0.01 (% norbornane formed)\*0.01 = 0.000008 mmol
- 3) Hydrides/surface atom = 0.000008/0.011 = 0.0007

### **LMP60 (150 °C)**

Following the experimental procedure published in *ACS Catalysis* **2014**, 4, 3016, a Fischer-Porter (80 mL) was filled with 100 mg of RuNPs@PVP (~ 8% Ru), pressurized with 3 bar of syngas (1:1 molar mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO) and heated at 150 °C for 24 h.

After this, we quantified the hydrides adsorbed following a previously reported procedure (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 2074-2078). The Fischer-Porter was depressurized at 150 °C. After that, the Ru/PVP (100 mg) were re-dispersed in 10 mL of THF and reacted with 2-norbornene (37.5 mg, 0.4 mmol, 5 equiv.). The amount of norbornane formed was measured by G.C. analysis.

After 24h of vigorous stirring in a 80 ml flask, only traces of norbornane was observed by G.C, confirming that there are not hydrides adsorbed at ruthenium surface after these conditions.

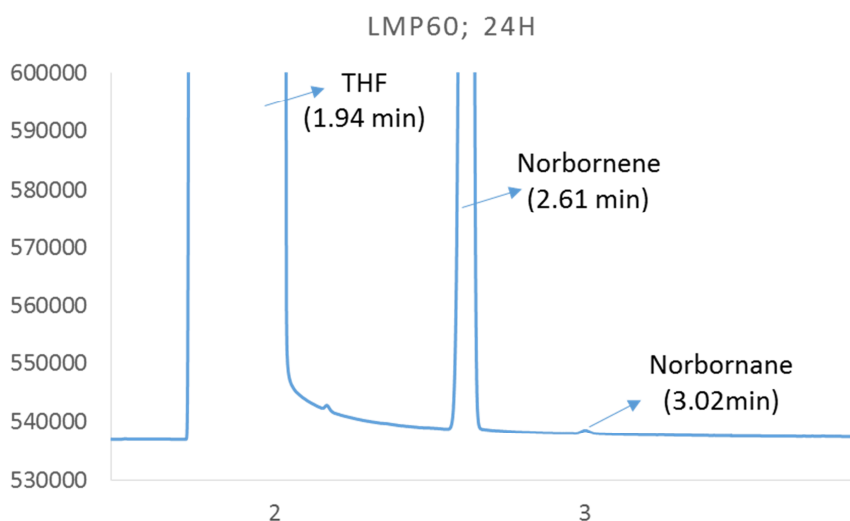


Figure S11: Gas chromatography spectrum recorded after reaction of 37.5 mg of 2-norbornene with 100 mg of RuNPs@PVP in a 80 mL Fischer-Porter obtained after 3 bar of syngas at 80 °C (1:1 molar mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO).

| Compound     | r.t. | area    | %     |
|--------------|------|---------|-------|
| THF          | 1.94 | 2930334 | -     |
| 2-norbornene | 2.61 | 15277   | 99.93 |
| norbornane   | 3.02 | 11      | 0.07  |

### **Calculation of hydrides adsorbed on RuNPs@PVP:**

RuNPs@PVP (~8 % Ru):

Size = 1.3 (0.2) nm

Total Atoms = 114

Core atoms = 36  
 Surface atoms = 78  
 % Surface atoms = 68 %

- 1) 100 mg de RuNPs@PVP  $\rightarrow$  0.08 mmol Ru  $\rightarrow$  0.054 mmol Ru<sub>s</sub>
- 2) Norbornane consumed = 0.4 mmol (initial norbornene) \* 0.07 (% norbornane formed)\*0.01 = 0.0003 mmol
- 3) Hydrides/surface atom = 0.0003/0.054 = 0.005

### **LMP61 (80 °C)**

Following the experimental procedure published in *ACS Catalysis* **2014**, 4, 3016, a Fischer-Porter (80 mL) was filled with 100 mg of RuNPs@PVP (~ 8% Ru), pressurized with 3 bar of syngas (1:1 molar mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO) and heated at 80 °C for 24 h.

After this, we quantified the hydrides adsorbed following a previously reported procedure (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 2074-2078). The Fischer-Porter was depressurized at 80 °C. After that, the Ru/PVP (100 mg) were re-dispersed in 10 mL of THF and reacted with 2-norbornene (37.5 mg, 0.4 mmol, 5 equiv.). The amount of norbornane formed was measured by G.C. analysis.

After 24h of vigorous stirring in a 80 ml flask, only traces of norbornane was observed by G.C, confirming that there are not hydrides adsorbed at ruthenium surface after these conditions.

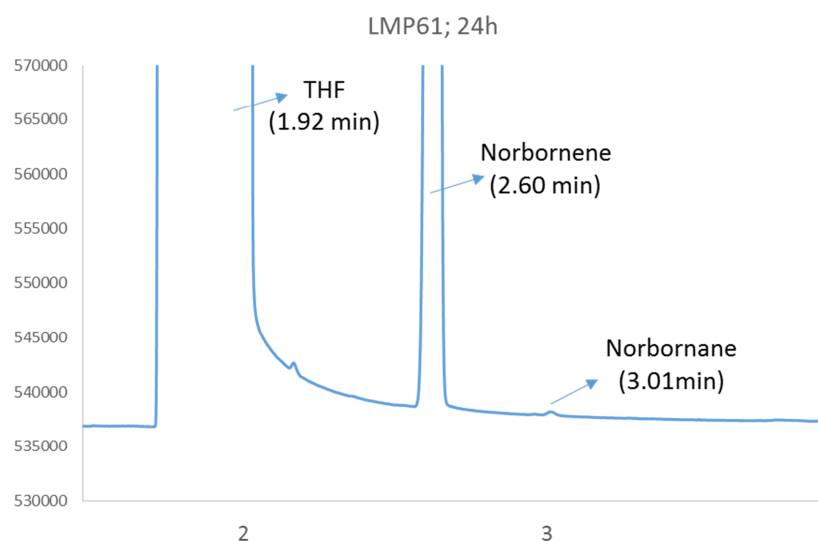


Figure S12: Gas chromatography spectrum recorded after reaction of 37.5 mg of 2-norbornene with 100 mg of RuNPs@PVP in a 80 mL Fischer-Porter obtained after 3 bar of syngas at 80 °C (1:1 molar mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO).

| Compound     | r.t. | area    | %     |
|--------------|------|---------|-------|
| THF          | 1.92 | 2840934 | -     |
| 2-norbornene | 2.60 | 17235   | 99.97 |
| norbornane   | 3.01 | 6       | 0.03  |

### **Calculation of hydrides adsorbed on RuNPs@PVP:**

RuNPs@PVP (~8 % Ru):



Size = 1.3 (0.2) nm

Total Atoms = 114

Core atoms = 36

Surface atoms = 78

% Surface atoms = 68 %

- 1) 100 mg de RuNPs@PVP  $\rightarrow$  0.08 mmol Ru  $\rightarrow$  0.054 mmol Ru<sub>s</sub>
- 2) Norbornane consumed = 0.4 mmol (initial norbornene) \* 0.034 (% norbornane formed)\*0.01 = 0.00014 mmol
- 3) Hydrides/surface atom = 0.00014/0.054 = 0.0026